

- 15 (2) Cast a ballot if the voter is in line when the polls are closing.
- 16 (3) Ask for and receive assistance in voting, including assistance in
17 languages other than English where required by federal or state law.
- 18 (4) Cast a provisional ballot if his or her eligibility to vote is in
19 question.
- 20 (5) Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election officials or
21 any other person.
- 22 (6) Cast a ballot using voting equipment that accurately counts all
23 votes."
- 24 (b) In any municipality or voting district where federal or state law
25 requires ballots to be made available in a language or languages other
26 than English, the Voter's Bill of Rights shall also be made available in
27 such language or languages.
- 28 (c) Sample ballots shall be made available at all polling places and
29 any voter will be permitted to inspect a sample ballot before voting.
- 30 (d) Any voter standing in line at a polling place at the time when
31 polls are scheduled to close shall be permitted to vote.
- 32 (e) On election day, any person who seeks to vote but whose
33 eligibility to vote is challenged by an election official shall be permitted
34 to cast a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a secret ballot sealed
35 in a specially-marked envelope, similar to an absentee ballot. The
36 envelope shall identify the person casting the ballot and the reason the
37 moderator believes that the person is ineligible to vote. After the polls
38 close, the registrars of voters shall review the information on the
39 envelope and determine if the person is eligible to vote in that
40 municipality. If the person is determined to be eligible, the envelope
41 shall be unsealed, the ballot counted and registration records corrected
42 to reflect the voter's eligibility for future elections. If the person is
43 determined to be ineligible, the envelope shall remain sealed and the

44 registrars shall notify the person in writing within ten days of the
45 reason for the rejection.

46 Sec. 4. Section 9-241 of the general statutes is repealed and the
47 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and*
48 *applicable to primaries, elections and referenda held on or after January 1,*
49 *2003*):

50 (a) Any person owning or holding an interest in any voting
51 machine, as defined in subsection (w) of section 9-1, may apply to the
52 Secretary of the State to examine such machine and report on its
53 accuracy and efficiency. The Secretary of the State shall examine the
54 machine and determine whether, in his opinion, the kind of machine
55 so examined meets the requirements of section 9-242 and can be used
56 at elections, primaries and referenda under this title. If the Secretary of
57 the State determines that the machine can be so used, such machine
58 may be adopted for such use. No machine not so approved shall be so
59 used. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred
60 dollars and the Secretary of the State shall not give his approval of any
61 machine until such fee and the expenses incurred by him in making
62 the examination have been paid by the person making such
63 application. Any voting machine company which has had its voting
64 machine approved and which subsequently alters such machine in any
65 way, shall provide the Secretary of the State with notice of such
66 alterations, including a description thereof and a statement of the
67 purpose of such alterations. If any such alterations appear to materially
68 affect the accuracy, appearance or efficiency of the machine, or modify
69 the machine so that it can no longer be used at elections, primaries or
70 referenda under this title, at the discretion of the Secretary of the State,
71 the company shall submit such alterations for inspection and approval,
72 at its own expense, before such altered machines may be used. The
73 Secretary of the State may adopt regulations in accordance with the
74 provisions of chapter 54 concerning examination and approval of
75 voting machines under this section.

76 (b) In approving machines under subsection (a) of this section, the
77 Secretary of the State shall only approve the use of electronic devices
78 which directly record voters' choices or optical scanning devices which
79 scan voters' marked paper ballots at each polling place. Such devices
80 shall also meet the following requirements:

81 (1) The voting machine shall permit the voter to verify the voter's
82 selections and correct any errors before the ballot is counted.

83 (2) If the voter selects votes for more than one candidate for a single
84 office, the voting machine shall notify the voter and permit the voter to
85 correct the voter's selections before the ballot is counted.

86 (3) If the voter selects votes for fewer than the number of candidates
87 for which votes may be cast, the voting machine shall notify the voter
88 and permit the voter to alter the voter's selections before the ballot is
89 counted.

90 (4) The voting machine shall produce a record with an audit
91 capacity for each ballot cast.

92 (5) The voting machine shall be accessible to individuals with
93 disabilities and other special needs, and shall be capable of providing
94 ballots in languages other than English where required by federal or
95 state law.

96 (6) The voting machine shall provide accuracy, reliability, security
97 from fraud, and ease of use.

98 (c) The Secretary of the State may approve the use of hand-counted
99 or optical scan-counted paper ballots which do not comply with
100 subsection (b) of this section for absentee ballots, provisional ballots,
101 and for municipalities with fewer than ten thousand registered voters.

102 (d) The Secretary of the State will designate and graphically depict
103 uniform primary and general election ballot designs for each approved
104 voting machine. Registrars of voters shall follow such uniform ballot

105 designs.

106 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall
 107 continue to develop and maintain an online state-wide voter
 108 registration database that registrars of voters shall use. All registrars of
 109 voters shall use procedures established by the Secretary of the State for
 110 adding, maintaining and removing names from the state-wide voter
 111 registration database. Such procedures shall provide state-wide
 112 uniformity and accuracy in the composition and operation of voter
 113 registry lists. The database shall include, at a minimum, each voter's
 114 name, address, date of birth, gender, party affiliation if applicable,
 115 voting district, and legislative and congressional district numbers. No
 116 privately collected database and no private company may be used to
 117 purge voters from the state-wide voter registration database. Voters
 118 shall have the ability to easily check the accuracy of their voter
 119 registration records.

120 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No person will serve as a
 121 polling place official unless such person has completed a training
 122 within the previous two years, conducted by the Secretary of the State
 123 in conjunction with the registrars of voters of each municipality under
 124 title 9 of the general statutes prior to each primary, general and special
 125 election, for the purpose of instructing such persons in their duties and
 126 responsibilities.

127 (b) The Secretary of the State shall create a uniform polling place
 128 procedures manual and adopt the manual by regulations. Registrars of
 129 voters shall ensure that the manuals are available in hard copy or
 130 electronic form in each voting district on election day. The manual
 131 shall guide polling place officials in the proper implementation of
 132 election laws and procedures. The manual shall be indexed by subject,
 133 and written in clear and unambiguous language. The manual shall
 134 provide specific examples of common problems encountered at the
 135 polls on election day, and detail specific procedures for resolving such
 136 problems. The manual shall include, but not be limited to, the

137 following:

138 (1) Regulations governing solicitation by individuals and groups at
139 the polling place;

140 (2) Procedures to be followed with respect to voters whose names
141 are not on the registry list;

142 (3) Proper operation of voting machines;

143 (4) Ballot handling procedures;

144 (5) Procedures governing spoiled ballots;

145 (6) Procedures to be followed after the polls close;

146 (7) Rights of voters at the polls;

147 (8) Procedures for handling emergency situations;

148 (9) The handling and processing of provisional ballots; and

149 (10) Security procedures.

150 (c) The Secretary of the State will adopt regulations prescribing
151 minimum standards for nonpartisan voter education. Working with
152 community organizations and leaders, registrars of voters shall
153 implement the minimum voter education standards, and shall conduct
154 additional nonpartisan education efforts as necessary to ensure that
155 voters have a working knowledge of the voting process. The minimum
156 voter education standards shall address, but not be limited to, the
157 following subjects:

158 (1) Voter registration;

159 (2) Balloting procedures, absentee ballots and polling places;

160 (3) Voter rights and responsibilities;

161 (4) Distribution of sample ballots; and

162 (5) Public service announcements.

163 (e) Any person who intentionally violates any provision of this
164 section shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or
165 imprisoned not more than one year or both.

166 Sec. 7. Section 9-7b of the general statutes, as amended by section 15
167 of public act 01-195, is amended by adding subsection (c) as follows
168 (*Effective from passage*):

169 (NEW) (c) After each regular election, the State Elections
170 Enforcement Commission shall conduct a study of the administration
171 of the election to:

172 (1) Determine whether state election laws and regulations were
173 followed in the prior election cycle, and if not, why they were not
174 followed;

175 (2) Determine whether current election procedures are fair and
176 appropriate;

177 (3) Determine the number and percentage of overvotes and
178 undervotes in the said election, the reasons for such overvotes and
179 undervotes, and other information as may be useful in evaluating the
180 performance of the voting machines and identifying problems with
181 ballot design and instructions which may have contributed to
182 overvotes and undervotes;

183 (4) Determine whether precincts have adequate facilities for the
184 number of voters served;

185 (5) Examine the election practices or proposals that increase or
186 diminish voter participation; and

187 (6) Recommend how election procedures can and should be

188 improved.

189 The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall submit a report on
190 its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or
191 before February first following each regular election.

192 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Nothing in sections 1 to 8,
193 inclusive, of this act shall be construed to authorize or require conduct
194 prohibited under the following laws:

195 (1) The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 USC 1973gg et
196 seq.);

197 (2) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 USC 1973 et seq.);

198 (3) The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act
199 (42 USC 1973ff et seq.);

200 (4) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42
201 USC 1973ff et seq.); and

202 (5) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 1994 et
203 seq.).

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage and applicable to primaries, elections and referenda held on or after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Voter's Bill of Rights, requiring local election officials to publicly post, distribute and comply with the Bill of Rights; require all

jurisdictions in the state to use modern, accurate vote counting technology and a state-wide voter registration database; require education and training for poll workers and the voting public; and require the State Elections Enforcement Commission to report on each regular election.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]